

**ABSTRACT**

In some embodiments of the invention a desired alphanumeric character is generated through the use of mnemonic aids which are provided to represent the alphanumeric characters. Each aid is designed so that it can suggest to a person a respective combination of one or more zones to be selected from a number of zones. The respective combination is such that if contrasted with the remainder of the zones, or with the remainder of an area that is coextensive with and contains all of the zones, the remainder resembles the desired character. Other embodiments are also described and claimed.